

## Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-10

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UNCLAS USUN 689

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN KS

SUBJ: ROK OBSERVER MISSION PRESS RELEASES ON FEB 26

INCIDENT

REF: USUN 629

ROK OBSERVER MISSION HAS NOT HELD ANY PRESS CONFERENCE BUT  
HAS CIRCULATED TO ALL UN MISSIONS FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASES  
RELATING TO FEB 26 YELLOW SEA INCIDENT.

QUOTE NO. 09/75 28 FEBRUARY 1975

PRESS RELEASE

SEOUL SIDE OF THE SOUTH-NORTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
LODGES STRONG PROTEST AGAINST INFILTRATION OF NORTH  
KOREAN VESSELS

SEOUL, FEB. 28 (KPS)--THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA THURSDAY  
URGED COMMUNIST NORTH KOREA TO DESIST FROM MAKING "RECKLESS  
PROVOCATIONS" AND RESPOND TO THE SOUTH'S SINCERE EFFORTS TO  
PREVENT WAR AND ROOT PEACE FIRMLY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

LODGING A STRONG PROTEST AGAINST THE INFILTRATION WEDNES-  
DAY OF NORTH KOREAN VESSELS INTO THE REPUBLIC'S LONG-ESTAB-  
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LISHED OPERATIONAL WATERS, CHANG KEY-YOUNG, SEOUL SIDE'S

ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH-NORTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE, WARNED PYONGYANG THAT "THERE IS A LIMIT TO OUR SELF-RESTRAINT IN THE FACE OF REPEATED RECKLESS PROVOCATIVE ACTS."

IN A TELEPHONE MESSAGE SENT THURSDAY AFTERNOON TO THE PYONGYANG SIDE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, CHANG CALLED ON THE PYONGYANG SIDE TO "RETURN TO REASON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

ACTING CHAIRMAN CHANG SAID THAT THE NORTH KOREAN PENETRATION OF ARMED SHIPS INTO SOUTH KOREA'S OPERATIONAL WATERS MUST BE CONSIDERED AS "A NEW PROVOCATIVE ACT SCHEMED TO FURTHER DETERIORATE THE MILITARY TENSION BETWEEN THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH."

HE THEN NOTED THAT NORTH KOREA SENT SEVERAL AIRCRAFT AND PATROL BOATS NEAR THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT, THUS CAUSING "A VERY DANGEROUS STATE OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION."

CHANG SAID THAT THE NORTH KOREAN BOATS SHOULD HAVE OBEYED THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA PATROL SHIP'S ORDER TO HALT IF THEY HAD BEEN "GENUINE UNARMED FISHING VESSELS AS CLAIMED BY YOUR SIDE."  
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QUOTE NO. 10/75 4 MARCH 1975  
PRESS RELEASE

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA ACCUSES NORTH KOREA  
OF VIOLATING AIR SPACE CONTROLLED BY THE COMMAND

PANMUNJOM, MARCH 4 (KPS)--THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND MONDAY DENOUNCED NORTH KOREA FOR HAVING INTRUDED ITS AIRCRAFT INTO THE WEST SEA AIR SPACE CONTROLLED BY THE COMMAND ON 11 SEPARATE OCCASIONS DURING FEBRUARY 26 AND 27.

AT THE 360TH SESSION OF THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION HELD AT PANMUNJOM, THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND SAID ITS RADAR DETECTED THE NORTH KOREAN AIRCRAFT INTRUDING THE AIR SPACE OVER THE ISLANDS OF PAENGYONG-DO, TAECHONG-DO AND SOCHONG-DO BETWEEN 11:41 P.M. FEBRUARY 26 AND 9:17 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY.

REAR ADMIRAL HENRY S. MORGAN SAID "THE AERIAL INTRUSIONS WERE NOT ONLY SIGNIFICANT BREACHES OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT BUT ALSO COULD HAVE RESULTED IN A MORE SERIOUS CONFRONTATION BETWEEN OUR TWO SIDES."

THE ADMIRAL SAID THE AIR SPACE WAS VIOLATED DURING THE PERIOD SUBSEQUENT TO THE CONFRONTATION IN THE WEST SEA LAST WEDNESDAY BETWEEN  
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REPUBLIC OF KOREA NAVAL PATROL CRAFT AND NORTH KOREAN ARMED VESSELS.

REFERRING TO THE SEA INCIDENT, ADMIRAL MORGAN SAID THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA NAVY VESSELS WERE SIMPLY TRYING TO IDENTIFY AND ASCERTAIN THE MISSION OF THE TWO UNIDENTIFIED SHIPS DETECTED SOUTHWEST OF PAENGYONG-DO AT 3:05 P.M. THAT DAY.

HE SAID THAT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA CRAFT OBSERVED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS PLACED BEHIND THE PILOT CABIN OF THE VESSELS, ALONG WITH AN UNUSUAL ARRAY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RADAR ANTENNAS.

"THE TWO VESSELS WERE CHALLENGED BY THE USUAL INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED METHODS OF RADIO, FLASHING LIGHTS AND SIRENS, BUT THE TWO VESSELS IGNORED ALL CHALLENGES AND REFUSED TO SHOW THEIR COLORS AND THEN BEGAN TO FLEE TO JOIN THE FLEET OF EIGHT OTHER BOATS IN THE AREA," HE SAID.

AT 8:26 P.M., IN THE CONFUSION OF DARKNESS, A NORTH KOREAN BOAT SANK AFTER AN ACCIDENTAL COLLISION WITH A REPUBLIC OF KOREA DESTROYER

ADMIRAL MORGAN SAID THERE WAS NO INDISCRIMINATE BOMBARDMENT OF THE NORTH KOREAN BOAT NOR WAS THERE ANY ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP THE VESSLES.

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## Message Attributes

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